

Appln No. 10/622,198
Amdt date November 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-3, 5 and 8-12 remain in the present application, of which claims 3, 5 and 8 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 6-7 and 13-21 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 9 have been amended herein. Applicants respectfully request that the allowance of claim 3 be maintained. Applicants also request that claims 5 and 8 be allowed since they have been rewritten in independent form as required by the Examiner. Further, applicants request that claims 2 and 9-12 be allowed since they now respectively depend from allowable claims 5 and 8.

I. Rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 13-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,766 ("Perry"). Since claims 1, 6, 7 and 13-21 are canceled herein, their rejection is now moot.

The rejection of claims 2 and 9 will be addressed below in reference to the allowance of allowable claims 5 and 8, as they have been amended to depend from claims 5 and 8, respectively.

II. Rejection of claims 4, 7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Perry in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,996,137 ("Genova"). Since claims 4 and 7 are canceled herein, their rejection is now moot.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Perry in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,423,899 ("Reiker"). The rejection of claims 10 and 11 will be addressed below in reference to the allowance of the allowable claim 8.

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Perry in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,139,236 ("Ito"). The rejection of claim 12 will be addressed below in reference to the allowance of the allowable claim 8.

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III. Allowed Claim 3 and Allowable Claims 5 and 8

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claim 3. Applicants request that the allowance of claim 3 be maintained.


Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 8 are allowable. Since claims 5 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form as required by the Examiner, applicants request that the objection to claims 5 and 8 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

Since claims 2 and 9-12 respectively depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 5 and 8, they each incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 5 or claim 8 in addition to other limitations, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, applicants request that the rejection of claims 2 and 9-12 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

IV. Concluding Remarks

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants earnestly solicit a timely mailing of a Notice of Allowance and an expedited issuance of a patent with claims 2-3, 5 and 8-12. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Jun-Young E. Jeon
Reg. No. 43,693
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